

HCDOP Communications – December 2004

HCDOP CG Action Items/Key Outcomes

- Anne will draft a media contact list and send to the HCDOP CG for input by December 15. (*This is delayed – I've been out sick. I'll try to get something out before the next meeting.* – AC)
- Anne, Duane, and Dave C. will draft a Hood Canal key messages reference sheet for the CG to review by the next HCDOP meeting on January 5. (*In progress- AC/DC*)
- Dave C. will set up a meeting with Terry Hull from PSAT and staff from Mason, Kitsap, and Jefferson counties to discuss the PACA human sewage projects and potential data that could be generated from these projects. Dave will also discuss concepts with Terry H. that might be incorporated in the HCCC's USEPA RGI grant.
- Jan and Dan will send an invitation to IAM task members and hopefully arrange a larger group meeting on December 17, 2004. There's much to be done, in terms of contract development, to be in place prior to funds received, hopefully by Christmas. (Done – JN)
- Gary will work with Dan, Jan, Keith D, and Ecology to decide which west HC stream gauging stations are high priorities (among the Hama, Duckabush, and Dosewallips)

Scientific Studies

- *Project update*
 - USGS – Ralph Cheng, Menlo Park, has a circulation model of the canal running, but needs more detailed salinity data to refine it. USGS Tacoma is getting him the data to do so. On December 7 and 8, Ralph presented his work to date on the model to USGS Tacoma, Bob Johnston of the Navy, and Mitsuhiro Kawase of UW. He also discussed coordination of work with Mitsuhiro and Bob. (GT)
 - USGS is also developing plans to investigate ground-water flow into Hood Canal. The tentative approach is to study a few small, closed basins next to the canal and determine the GW inputs from them, then upscale to the rest of the canal. The USGS Biology office in Seattle is putting together a workplan for looking at fish disease. Both plans should be at least “roughed out” by the early January. (GT)
 - A meeting was held on 17 Dec (10:00-noon) at APL-UW in Seattle for presenting the HCDOP-IAM 2005 task descriptions, participants, and budget. While there was good discussion, there were no issues raised with the plan as proposed. The PowerPoint presentation summary was emailed to all HCDOP-IAM parties. The timing of funding availability is still not strictly known, but hopefully before March. (JN)
- *New information generated by projects*
 - PRISM cruised to Hood Canal in December 2004 and conducted another transect. Data are being analyzed and will be viewable over the website shortly. (JN).
- *Study data*
 - USGS has received all surface water data collected this summer except the isotope data. We will be getting it into spreadsheets and data bases to make it more readily available. Field data are available for the marine samples collected in conjunction with the ADCP deployments, but we are still waiting for the lab analyses of some of the marine samples. (GT)

- Data from the ADCPs has been recovered and processes, still needs to be reviewed and quality-assured. (GT)
- Bob Kimbrough, who leads the USGS stream-gauging program, will be talking to Keith D. regarding gauges and upgrades on the Hamma Hamma, Dosewallips, and Duckabush Rivers. (GT)
- Talked to Henry Minch, retired hydrogeologist and resident of HC, about the Webb Hill biosolids operation, and his concern about its potential as a N source for the Skok and Hood Canal. In process of arranging a meeting with Henry, Cris Mathews of Ecy, and me to resolve this, hopefully. (Duane)

Corrective Actions

- *Project update*
 - Kitsap County Health District: Hood Canal Pollution Identification and Correction Project – Kitsap Health has submitted Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP) for both the shoreline survey and education portions of the project. Approval of these plans by PSAT and the EPA is expected by mid-January. The shoreline survey will begin in late January 2005. For more information contact John Cambalik, Local Liaison, PSAT at 360-582-9132 or jcambalik@psat.wa.gov. (John Cambalik, PSAT) (J. Cambalik)
 - Mason County's consultant, Gray and Osborne Consulting Engineers, is gathering and assessing initial information for the study and is refining the overall design of the study. Staff from the firm are talking individually with staff from a number of agencies and organizations and are trying to schedule an initial meeting with the key interests in early January to discuss the project. (S. Glasoe)
 - Mason Conservation District has started researching anaerobic digester technologies, and will soon travel to learn more about a system already in use in Whatcom County. Mason County Commissioner Kamin has expressed interest in using the technology for other applications in other parts of the county. The district recently printed an article on the study in its newsletter. (S. Glasoe)
 - Worked with Dave C and Jay W of the HCCC on endorsing their EPA-RGI proposal; endorsement letter signed by Brad Ack and submitted to Dave C. by Wednesday's deadline (Duane)
 - Anne C and I met with Joe Harrison of WSU Puyallup office on Ag-nutrient related studies and data (Duane)
 - Dave C, Stuart Glasoe, Terry Hull and I met with PUD 1 and others, related to the potential for the PUD to assist with onsite operation and maintenance as a utility. Sent comments on the meeting minutes to Bob Wubbena of EES following the meeting. (Duane)
 - Terry reviewed WDOH preliminary draft literature search product, final review draft due before Christmas, WOSSA set to do peer review. (Terry Hull)
 - Meeting with local health staff set for Tuesday, 12/21 in Silverdale; RFP for monitoring work to follow immediately thereafter. (Terry Hull)
 - Dave's RGI proposal reviewed, liaison done with Ecology on Terry's facilitation of discussion with Health regarding regulatory issues. (Terry Hull)
 - Hood Canal Stewards – WSU Jefferson County Extension hired a project coordinator who will set up an office with the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement

- Group in Belfair. They are currently revising the Island County Shore Stewards book to tailor it for Hood Canal. (Mary Knackstedt)
- Hood Canal Watershed Pledge (funded by Ecology's Direct Implementation Fund (DIF) and PSAT's Public Involvement and Education (PIE) fund), WSU Extension has completed a draft of the text for the pledge booklet. The booklet will provide guidance and motivation for residents to protect Hood Canal from harm. (Mary Knackstedt)
 - Sea Grant has distributed screens that trap nitrogen-laden food particles to over 250 households in Mason County through community events, meetings, and clinics. Participants have responded with amazement at how much stuff the screens collect and have been sharing their enthusiasm for the project with friends and neighbors. Participants with garbage disposals are signing up to replace their disposals with a compost or worm bin next summer during the garbage disposal roundup. In addition, 22 of the 50 households have been recruited to collect the gunk for their kitchen sink screen for a week in February for nutrient analysis (Terry King).
 - *New information generated by projects*
 - Talked to Dave H and Keith D re: the number of chum caught and processed. Numbers were in the 375,000 range, or about 3 M pounds of male and female carcasses combined. Congratulation to the Tribe and Am. Canadian Fisheries (Duane)

Public Outreach

- *Public education and outreach efforts updates*
 - Neighbors of the Hood Canal Web site. The group has completed a template for a web site that will provide information about educational events, volunteer opportunities, and Hood Canal science. (Mary Knackstedt)
- *Comments/questions from public*
- *Response to public sentiments/concerns/issues*
- *Public outreach needs*
- *Upcoming meeting notices/speaking engagements*
- The next Low Dissolved Oxygen Outreach and Coordination meeting is on Monday January 10th, 9:30 - 12:00 at the SSWM Conference room in Bremerton. For more information contact Emily Piper, Water Resources Associate, Washington State University Mason County Extension, 360.427.9670 ex. 396, elpiper@wsu.edu. (AC)

Media

- *Media contacts or requests*
 - PSAT
Shawn Hanlon, Mason County Journal, HC septic grants
 Chris Dunagan, The Sun, HC chum salmon carcasses
 Erin VanBronkhorst, AP, HC web hill sewage recycling
 Susan Gordon, TNT, Hood Canal
 Gary Franco, Sea Magazine, Hood Canal
 Jim Router, Northwest Indian News, Hood Canal

- Talked with Susan Gordon of the Tribune about changes in marine life in the canal. Referred her to Wayne Palsson (WDFW) and Dan Hannafious. (Duane F.)
- Bob Hager interview by Susan Gordon Tacoma News Tribune. She is doing background with people who live on Hood canal for an overall article. She also met with Earl Sande and Dan Hannafious. (BH)
- Jan Newton spent a few hours on the phone with Sue Gordon (TNT) explaining oxygen dynamics, Hood Canal characteristics, and HCDOP-IAM study goals. (JN)
- *Media coverage*
 - **We have a duty to protect forests, Hood Canal for our children (AC)**
The News Tribune
December 2, 2004
<http://www.thenewstribune.com/opinion/columnists/story/4262720p-4054627c.html>
 - **Canal merits attention (AC)**
The Olympian editorial
December 13, 2004
<http://news.theolympian.com/home/news/20041213/opinion/48632.shtml>
 - **Troubling evidence (AC)**
Seattle Post-Intelligencer (Editorial Board)
December 8, 2004
http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/opinion/202723_sounded.html?searchpagefrom=2&searchdiff=1
 - **Committee to focus on Hood Canal water (AC)**
The Olympian
December 13, 2004
State Rep. Bill Eickmeyer, D-Belfair, has been picked to lead a special legislative committee to work on strategies to improve Hood Canal's water quality. Other members of the House Select Committee on Hood Canal will be named later this month. The canal is suffering from low dissolved oxygen levels that have led to fish kills, fishing closures and fears that the canal could turn into a dead sea. The select committee will review management of Hood Canal water quality, fisheries and the shellfish industry. It will look at ways to reduce pollution from stormwater runoff, failing septic tanks, livestock waste and other sources.

Funding

- *Funding now available*
 - Congress has passed the Omnibus bill, which included funding of about \$346K for USGS. (I'm not sure of the exact amount because there was an across-the-board reduction of about a percent or so.) (GT).
 - The Omnibus bill includes \$200,000 for PSAT for HC projects. (The Governor's request includes \$500,000 for HC projects) (AC).
 - The Governor's request includes \$1,115,000 for the Dept of Health. Funding and staff will increase technical assistance to Local Health Jurisdictions to develop and implement comprehensive, integrated management plans for long-term use of

on-site sewage systems. Electronic databases will be established to inventory existing on-site sewage systems in counties with marine shorelines. This item will also increase the capacity for technical assistance on nitrogen reducing on-site systems and other advances in septic system performance. (AC)

- Funding needs
- Upcoming funding opportunities
 - Ecology is currently accepting applications for the 2005-07 Shoreline Master Program Grants. The funding application and other information about the grant program are available at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/grants/smp/index.html>. The application deadline is January 14, 2005. If you have questions or need assistance please contact your shoreline planner in the appropriate Ecology regional office or Bev Huether at Ecology's headquarters office at (360) 407-7245 or bhue461@ecy.wa.gov. (AC)
 - Private landowners have until December 31, 2004, to apply for funding to protect habitat on private lands. The grants can be used to help protect, enhance, and restore habitat on their land for fish and wildlife species at risk. Application forms and more information on the Landowner Incentive Program are available through WDFW regional offices, on the Internet at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/lip/index.htm> or by calling Jeff Skriletz, WDFW Landowner Incentive Program biologist, at (360) 902-8313. (AC)

Legislative or Congressional action

- *Legislative contacts/meetings*
 - Talked to Senator Oke's office (and committee services staff) about constituent complaint related to contracts we provided to the tribe and Am-Can Fish related to the chum salmon carcass program. (Duane)
 - Submitted an inquiry to Rep. Bill Eickmeyer's office, related to his new select committee on Hood Canal (Duane)
 - Jan Newton and Bill Bakamis (APL) briefed Norm Dicks on 21 December in Tacoma regarding the budget and HCDOP-IAM progress. (JN)
- Regulations or policy issues

Next HCDOP meeting

- *When/where*
 - January 5, 2004, 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Puget Sound Action Team's office, 210 11th Avenue, SW, Suite 401, Olympia, WA 98501. Call (360) 725-5444 for directions.
- *Proposed agenda items*
 - Quick check in on whether the communications tool is working for folks. (AC)